

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Michael B Fay [mbfay@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2009 1:47 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** Sec.5 of House Bill H6666

Dear Representative Fleischmann, Senator Gaffey, and members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to strongly advocate for Sec.5 of House Bill H6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly-trained professional artists, who serve as Education Center for the Arts part-time faculty, to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high-school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 10-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

In addition, parents of ECA students must be allowed to pay privately if their school districts do not cover tuitions to ECA. Students who pay privately make up 25% of the school; not allowing students whose school districts cannot cover tuitions (and this year's school-district budgets have already been set) will have the effect of depriving both students whose districts cannot pay AND students whose districts are able to pay of an extraordinary education at ECA, because ECA cannot lose 25% of its students and survive.

I am an alumni of ECA and I cannot tell you where I would be in my career today if it were not for the education I received at the hands of the talented, professional, and dedicated teachers at ECA. For the four years of high-school I was a member of the Theater Department at ECA. In my fourth year, classes in video production were offered and I was thrilled to be given the opportunity to take part. It was in that class that a love of filmmaking was born under the tutelage of our teacher, Marty Frame. I pale at the thought of where I would be today if it weren't for that class.

I can tell you from personal experience that the teachers at ECA are some of the most dedicated, caring, hard-working teachers I have ever had the pleasure of studying under. They are truly invested in nurturing the talent in their students. Furthermore, if it weren't for their example that a person can have a career as artist I would not have believed in myself that I could do the same.

Please, I urge you to vote in support of Sec.5 of House Bill H6666 and keep the spirit of this school alive.

Thank you,

Michael Fay  
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